

COLLECTION OF DUTIES ON IMPORTS.

MARCH 14, 1860.—Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HICKMAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, made the following

REPORT

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred "a bill to repeal an act further to provide for the collection of duties on imports" approved March 2, 1833, and the twelfth and twenty-fifth sections of "an act to establish the Judicial Courts of the United States," approved September 24, 1789, having had the same under consideration, respectfully report:

That the bill referred to your committee first proposes a repeal of the statute known as the "Force Bill," (4 Statutes at Large, p. 632,) and which was enacted to preserve the peace of the Union, and to provide for the enforcement of the laws of the United States against their attempted nullification by the State of South Carolina. The first and fifth sections of this statute, which conferred upon the President of the United States the power to employ the land and naval forces of the United States to enforce obedience to the law, having special reference to the revolutionary attitude then assumed by the State of South Carolina, were continued in force until the end of the first session of the Congress of 1834, and no longer. The other provisions of the act, which mainly have reference to proceedings in the courts of the United States to enforce due obedience to the laws and preserve and protect the rights of parties growing out of an attempt to enforce the revenue laws of the United States, are still in force; and no sufficient reason is, or, it is believed, can be assigned for their repeal at this time.

The sections of the judiciary act of 1789, which are also proposed to be repealed, are general in their application, and provide for the transfer of certain causes commenced in State courts to the courts of the United States; and also for the review by the Supreme Court of the United States of the final judgment of the courts of any State involving rights under laws of the United States. It is not perceived what good reason can be assigned for the repeal of these provisions.

Your committee infer that the proposition contained in the bill under consideration has reference to relieving any State of the Union from all obedience to federal authority, and to enable it to set at defiance all laws of the United States, although constitutionally enacted, which it may judge to be in conflict with its local interests. While your

committee would, upon all occasions, guard with anxious care the constitutional rights of every State of the Union against any invasion by the federal government, or by any other State, they nevertheless will insist that the constitutional authority of the general government shall be respected and obeyed by all the States of the Union; and they see nothing in the present aspect of public affairs which renders it desirable or politic to abrogate any provisions of law which have been enacted to preserve the dignity and maintain the authority of the government of the United States.

Your committee therefore recommend that the proposed bill do not pass.